

York, 1931, p. 66. It is nevertheless to be noted that Beckwourth's narrative is now rehabilitated in at least one respect—that Provost is shown to have been in the Uinta Basin in the spring of 1825. Beckwourth himself did not get into the Basin, but in associating Provost with the marvelous adventures he "dreamed up" for Ashley on the Green River, he once more demonstrated the thread of truth always to be found somewhere in his yarnings. Beckwourth undoubtedly heard from one or another of the trappers that Provost was in the Basin at the time in question; he may even have encountered Provost personally if the latter went with William Sublette to the Ashley rendezvous.

33. Chittenden, *op. cit.*, vol. 1, p. 276.
34. Document in the Chouteau collection of the Missouri Historical Society. The original is written in French, and question may be raised whether the phrase translated as "the meeting between him and the Robidoux" may not be even more literally translated from the original French ("reunion de lui avec les Robidoux"). If the Robidoux brothers, as suggested in note 11, had been associated with Provost during or after 1824, "reunion" might have a most literal English meaning. The Western Department of the American Fur Company, for which Cabanne was acting, was then determinedly attempting to eliminate all opposition, by fair means or foul. Miss Drumm says, "The Company was forced to make a deal with Joseph Robidou to avoid his opposition, and then they were just as unhappy with him, as they were when he was an opponent."
35. Drumm, *op. cit.*, p. 250.
36. Ferris, *op. cit.*, pp. 150, 156, 158, 159.
37. *Missouri Republican*, August 26, 1834.
38. Document in the Chouteau collection of the Missouri Historical Society.
39. Allan Nevins, *Frémont, Pathfinder of the West*, pp. 37-45, citing John Charles Frémont, *Memoirs of My Life*, pp. 38-54, and Joseph Nicolas Nicollet, *Report Intended to Illustrate a Map of the Hydrographic Basin of the Upper Mississippi River*, pp. 15-45.
40. Drumm, *op. cit.*, p. 250.
41. John James Audubon, *Audubon's America*, pp. 295, 312, 315. This reprint of Audubon's journals, edited by Donald Culross Peattie, contains plates in color of Audubon's drawings made while on this expedition.
42. Drumm, *op. cit.*, pp. 250, 251; Harris, *op. cit.*, p. 261.
43. Harris, *op. cit.*, p. 261, quoting obituary from the *Missouri Republican*, July 4, 1850.
44. Drumm, *op. cit.*, p. 250. A village in Minnesota is named Provo, but the researches of the Minnesota Writers' Project indicate that it was named not for Etienne but for an early settler, Bill Provost.
45. Jules Remy and Julius Brenchley, *A Journey to Great Salt Lake City*, vol. 2, p. 323.
46. Herbert J. Auerbach, "Old Trails, Old Forts, Old Trappers and Traders," p. 58. If any evidence other than the text were required to demonstrate the improbability of a Provost post of this sort, it should be sufficient to mention that Warren A. Ferris, with the American Fur Company during the same period, had no word whatever of any post maintained by Provost.

A curious sidelight to the legendry that has enshrouded Provost is that the drawing of him, first published in Harris' *Catholic Church in Utah* (1909), and several times reproduced in historical works, appears not to be a portrait of Provost at all. Harris credited the por-

UPPER SECTION OF DEER CREEK DAMSITE

